

Dear Colleague:

The State Department of Education's Early Childhood Special Education Program (IDEA 619) in collaboration with the Connecticut Charts-A-Course Accreditation Facilitation Project is announcing the availability of funds to support school districts and community programs in obtaining accreditation through the [National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\)](#).

Funds are targeted to programs delivering preschool special education services in settings that include public school preschool, kindergarten, school readiness, Head Start, full- and/or part-day center-based preschool or early childhood and/or nursery school. Programs eligible for financial support include:

- **Public schools providing special education and related services to children ages 3, 4 and 5 with disabilities.** School districts are eligible if their classroom programs consist of no less than a 50-50 ratio of typically developing children to children with disabilities.
- **Community programs working collaboratively with a school district to serve and support children ages 3, 4, and 5 with disabilities who are receiving special education and related services.** Community early education programs are eligible if their program can demonstrate that they work collaboratively with the school district in serving and supporting the district's children, ages 3 through 5, with an Individualized Educational Program (IEP). Community programs must be actively involved in the identification and delivery of services and supports to a child with a disability or a group of children with disabilities. Financial support is contingent upon the approval of the school district's administration that the program works collaboratively with the district on serving children, ages 3 through 5, under an IEP.

An application form for funding support in attaining NAEYC accreditation is attached. Funds are available for initial accreditation and re-accreditation. Programs that have already paid fees during this fiscal year may apply for financial support and can be reimbursed for the fees paid to NAEYC. In order for a program to obtain reimbursement, documentation as specified on the application form must be included with the application. Programs applying for funds for initial accreditation are expected to achieve NAEYC accreditation within two years. Documentation of progress toward this goal is required. Please know that these funds are limited. Applications for eligible programs will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP) offers training and technical assistance to support the applicant's NAEYC self-study and validation process. Training specific to the NAEYC accreditation process is offered annually in partnership with the State Education Resource Center (SERC). Training sessions, dates and registration information are included in the Early Childhood Professional Development Catalogue distributed by SERC and found online at <http://www.ctserc.org>. Training participants and applicants for funding are also eligible for one half-day of on-site technical assistance. Requests for training and technical assistance can be made to SERC. Additional training information is available at www.ctcharts-a-course.org.

The State Department of Education and Connecticut Charts-A-Course AFP encourage programs to use this funding as an opportunity to ensure a high-quality and developmentally appropriate program for children and families. Please call Deb Flis at (203) 287-3908 with any questions regarding this opportunity.

Maria Synodi, Coordinator
Early Childhood Special Education
State Department of Education

Deborah Flis, Director
Accreditation Facilitation Project
Connecticut Charts-A-Course

ACCREDITATION FACILITATION PROJECT
2321 WHITNEY AVE., SUITE 501 HAMDEN, CT 06518
Tel (800) 832-7784 x 3908 • Fax (203) 287-3915 • E-mail: debflisafp@aol.com